

NOAA Physical and Social Science Task Team Meeting
December 14, 2004
10:30 AM to 4:00 PM
SSMC III, Room 3404

Attendees: Richard Fulton, Sandy MacDonald (Chair), Al Powell (called-in), Avery Sen, Mike Sissenwine, Jean Snider, Louis Uccellini, Julian Wang, Sean White.

Minutes

The meeting was chaired and opened by MacDonald. In his brief opening remarks, Sandy outlined the meeting scope, and also mentioned that general perception didn't seem to be any agreement on what the PSTT should be doing.

After the opening, each participant offered a self introduction with his/her education and professional background as well as potential role in the Task Team. The meeting then went to discuss the PSTT's terms of reference and general scope. To be closely coordinated with the internal/external Ecosystem Task Team (iETT/eETT), a brief on iETT/eETT activity was provided by Sissenwine. A census was reached on coordination of timeline and outcomes between the PSTT and iETT/eETT.

Sandy opened the floor discussion by outlining different categories and issues. In terms of whom the PSTT might engage to conduct the review, following four categories were discussed: 1) NOAA partners (such as NASA, DoD) and interagency; 2) constituents (internal, external, Congress, etc); 3) stakeholders (WX channel, academia); and 4) advisory, experts/specialists on organizational/management consultants.

There were extensive discussions on (research) programs, including its organizational structure, activity elements, etc. A discussion on NOAA's official research definition proposed by the Research Council and approved at the NEC lead to an attempt for categorizing NOAA's major research enterprises/activities, such as observation systems in general, TOGA TAO, UAV, and Profiler in particular, Testbeds, etc. The transition of research to operations (handled by a separate task team) has been recognized as one of critical aspects for the PSTT to coordinate while performing the review, developing criteria for research, as well as developing options to meeting the criteria.

The group realized that there was no clear guidance on the scope of the team. It wasn't able to finalize the term of reference, and wasn't able to answer the question of: Do we limit ourselves to the criteria or make a step to outline potential migrations? The group agreed to seek further clarification on the PSTT scope from the Research Council and NOAA senior management. This is a major action item.

The group also discussed what steps should be taken, who to talk to, what materials should be collected to perform the task, and to develop criteria. Towards end of the meeting, Sandy proposed to ask for a separate OAR member of PSTT, and he would perform solely the Chair function. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.